

July 17, 1979

Belin was on Art Finley's talk show, from about 8 to 9 p.m. (Ted R. told me.) I managed to tape the All-Star game instead of the first part, so I heard only his discussions with callers.

(@024 on tape) Caller, Jim. Thinks it's shocking that people are still pushing the SBT. Frame 317 shows impact from front. (@035) DWB) Fatal shot is Z312-3, can't tell direction from film; need the autopsy material. WC's error - yielding to family on secrecy of that. HSC panel conclusive. Head bullet and cartridge cases match rifle. (Belin won't shut up!) Also, direction of bending of clothing fibers, and Connally's doctors say one bullet.

(@074) Jim brings up FBI receipt for 'missile,' a recent FOIA release. DWB: Good question, but the afcts are: I filed a FOIA request, I got this receipt when on the WC, and raised the same question (??); many FBI reports are inaccurate in part; the proof here is the X-rays which were taken before anything was removed. WC should have released this stuff. We found all sorts of inaccuracies in the FBI reports, so we did our own independent investigation.

(@103) Finley: Jim Eason (another KGO talk show host) is sort of a buff; his question - why is there no witness who say LHO's last shot? Belin: There is - Brennan; he was the source of the DPD description. Finley: Eason says he has poor vision. DWB: I asked him about that; didn't rely on his identification of Oswald; he was too far away - I checked that out personally.

(@137) Commercial break. AF says you've really lit up our switchboard. DWB offers to take one more call.

(@163) Caller, Gary. Asks when those CIA pictures of the body were taken. DWB: No, autopsy photos. Gary asks about tracheotomy interference with neck wound - how can you tell direction? DWB: Traced path; lung bruise; HSC can go into great detail. Caller doesn't understand getting head wound direction from so little info; DWB explains beveling, refers him to exhibits in HSC report. Gary: but what if it was an explosive bullet? DWB: It wasn't. X-rays will show it. Not just my opinion, but that of HSC panel, and Rocky Comm. and Clark panels, the latter chosen on basis of recommendation of university presidents. (@220) Gary interrupts, to say that credentials don't mean that much. Finley rebukes him for interrupting. Finley and Gary discuss this point. Finley knows that Wecht is the only expert on the other side.

(@247) Finley - If HSC confirms WC on all hits from back, what was second gunman doing? DWB: Right, you can ask lots of questions. The answer - their acoustics experts said it was probably; others, not called, say that's not true. (!?)

(@265) Belin says he's probably overstayed his welcome; this is the only show he did tonite; got lots of calls, but this was the first. (@269) Closing comment: I don't want everyone to agree, it's a free country, etc.; but what concerns him most is that almost all the HSC work was in secret; the WC made that mistake; he was outvoted on that on the RC. Bad combination - secrecy and excessive delegation to staff.

(@323) Finley's closing remarks - praises 'Howard' Belin's clarity, reason, and forbearance. RFK and EMK didn't subscribe to the conspiracy theories; why not, or do you people think they were part of the conspiracy? (Break for 9 p.m. news - HSC story was mainly Ratner on the MLK case - not v. enthusiastic.)

(@480) Jim Eason calls in - what drives people crazy is Belin saying things like that on, e.g., witnesses to last shot; not so; you had to bring up Brennan's vision, etc. (A basic, good, but somewhat obsolete Brennan rap.) People like Belin is ~~what~~ why the WR is discredited, etc. Finley's response - you're stuck with people like Lane. And what about the photos? Eason: I'm not an expert...

(@047) Fairly incoherent caller - doesn't know what to believe - Dulles was on WC - CIA behind death of Rocky - CIA linked to oil people - and what about those mysterious deaths. JFK wanted to dissolve CIA. Lots going on that we don't know about. Finley: Thinks Rocky was probably getting it on when he died. Next caller - ex SWP member; agencies hire unsavory undercover people, like Rowe, etc. Finley's position - not everything is related, and ~~xxxxx~~ isn't it interesting to hear Belin. Next, Bill calls about oil recycling, and objects to intentional walks in the All-Star game. Jim calls back; what's so refreshing about Belin; it wasn't all the WC's fault; talks of '67 tape, and WC testimony, re Ruby's motive; Finley recommends DWB's NYT piece; station person gets on and apologizes for letting Jim back on (3-day rule); he lied. One caller on wars for oil being bad; next, Paul from Sacramento thinks Ruby & Oswald are alive. JFK dead, though. (All in all, not without interest as a phenomenon!) PLH